

SENATE COMMEMORATION NO. 31

Introduced by: Senator Gillespie and Representative Bolin

A LEGISLATIVE COMMEMORATION, Honoring Mark Steck for receiving the 2008 Distinguished Service Award.

WHEREAS, each year the South Dakota Division of Parks and Recreation honors one employee who embodies the true mission of the state park system, and State Parks Director Doug Hofer set Mark Steck apart as having set an outstanding example for his peers with his professional commitment to managing state parks and serving the public, along with being well respected by those who work for him, and demonstrating efforts to preserve and improve the natural resources entrusted to his care; and

WHEREAS, during his years with the state park system Mark Steck has provided the leadership that resulted in the successful restoration of Spirit Mound Historic Prairie, spearheaded the creation of a lodge at Newton Hills State Park, served as an outstanding mentor to numerous seasonal and permanent employees, provided sound direction for the statewide park ranger training program, ensured the improvement of natural resources in every park he has managed during his career as a park manager including Palisades State Park and Newton Hills State Park, and continues to teach South Dakota's youth good sportsmanship in the area of trapping and management of wildlife; and

WHEREAS, Mark Steck's employees received the 2007 Team Award after the Newton Hills Park staff assisted with the restoration of the group lodge at the park; and

WHEREAS, Mark Steck, a graduate of the University of South Dakota with a degree in Natural Resources and a Masters in Public Administration, has been a regional park supervisor for thirteen years and has been employed with the state park system for twenty-two years; and

WHEREAS, Mark Steck continues serving his community today, whether through his job as park manager at Newton Hills or as an active volunteer in his community. Mark has raised a dedicated family that can attest to these many qualities, including his wife, Sandy, and two sons:



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT COMMEMORATED, by the Eighty-fourth Legislature of the State of South Dakota, that Mark Steck be congratulated for receiving the 2008 Distinguished Service Award.